

A STUDY ON INTERNAL MIGRATION IN INDIA

RUMON KUNDU

Assistant Teacher

Department of Geography

Gobindapur High School (H.S), Raghunathganj -II, West Bengal, India

Abstract: Migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily in a new location. This type of movement could be from one country to another or internal migration like among the states of a country, such as from rural-rural, rural-urban, urban-urban or urban –rural. Individuals may migrate as a person, in family units or in large groups. If A person is forced to move from his home to another place due to natural disaster or civil disturbance may be described as a refugee. Migrants continually face difficulties in becoming a full part of the economic, cultural, social and political lives of society. This paper is an attempt to understand the causes and nature of migration and also gender wise migration patterns in India and issues underlying it. Due to urbanization changes occur in socio-economic conditions, migrants are attracted to urban areas in recent times. Inter-state migration among males to urban area shows precedence growth reflecting migration of people from lower socio-economic class while a large percentage of females migrate mostly due to marriage. The reason for such divergent pattern of migration within a period of 10 years really needs to be investigated.

Index Terms - Labour, urbanization, migration, marriage

I. INTRODUCTION: INDIAN CONTEXT

As per 2011 census the population of India was 1,210,193,422. India added 181.5 million to its population since 2001. 2.4% of the world's surface area accounts for 17.5% of its population. Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state with roughly 200 million people. Of the 121 crore of Indians, 83.3 crore (68.84%) live in rural areas while 37.7 crore stay in urban areas. 45.36 crore of people in India are migrants, which is 37.8% of total population. Lead source states of internal migrants include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, whereas key destination areas are Punjab, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, and Karnataka. There are conspicuous migration corridors within the country: Uttar Pradesh to Maharashtra, Odisha to Gujarat, Bihar to National Capital Region, Odisha to Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan to Gujarat (UNESCO/UNICEF, 2012b).

Internal migrants constitute about one-third of India's urban population, and this proportion had been increasing from 31.6 per cent in 1983 to 33 per cent in 1999-2000, and to 35 percent in 2007-08 (NSSO 2007-08). The increase in the migration rate to urban areas has primarily occurred due to an increase in migration rate for females, which has been rising. Migration among women were increasing due to marriage many of them take up work, joining the pool of migrant workers in urban areas. Male migration rate in urban areas had also increased throughout the recent past due to employment-related reasons.

II. OBJECTIVES:

The proposed study is designed with the following objectives:

- To understand the causes and nature of internal migration.
- To examine the socio-economic factors of migration.
- To understand the reason of migration pattern gender wise.

III. METHODOLOGY:

This paper is solely based on secondary information collected from different sources like books, journal articles, reports of various government organization and commission, websites etc.

IV. MIGRATION:

Migration refers to permanent or semi-permanent change in the place of residence of an individual or a group of individuals from one location to another. Hence, it is different from the more general term mobility, which refers to all types of movements of people (Rubenstein and Bacon, 1990:75). Since the initiation of economic reforms in 1990, India has been experiencing the rapid urbanization flow from rural to urban migration. Urban population growth in the developing countries is far more rapid than the general population growth; about half the urban population growth is accounted for by migrants from rural areas.

Migration and urbanization are an integral part of economic development and societal transformation, and historical experience had shown that it cannot be stopped. Internal migrants contribute cheap labour for manufacturing and services and in doing so contribute to national GDP. Far from being a drain and burden, migrants are in fact providing a subsidy.

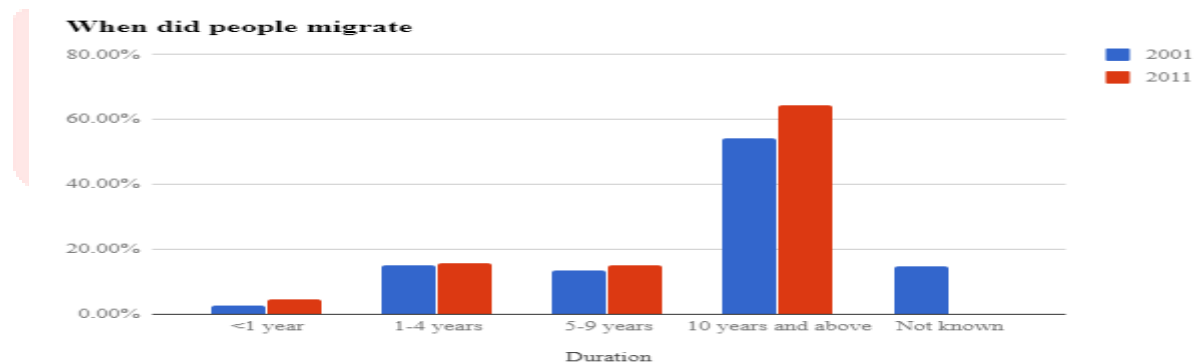
At this juncture in the economic development of a country like India, the study of movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the movements of people in the society better especially when many states are undergoing faster economic development, in areas, such as, information technology, manufacturing, or service sectors, data related to migration of population has become more important. Urban areas create larger opportunities for employment, education, etc. Employment have been a major pull factor attracting migrants from rural to urban areas and from smaller towns and cities to larger urban areas of different states. The total inter-state migrations in the country during the last decade are summarized in the following table:

Table 1: Number of Inter-state migrants in the country (All Duration of Residence) by rural urban status-India 2011

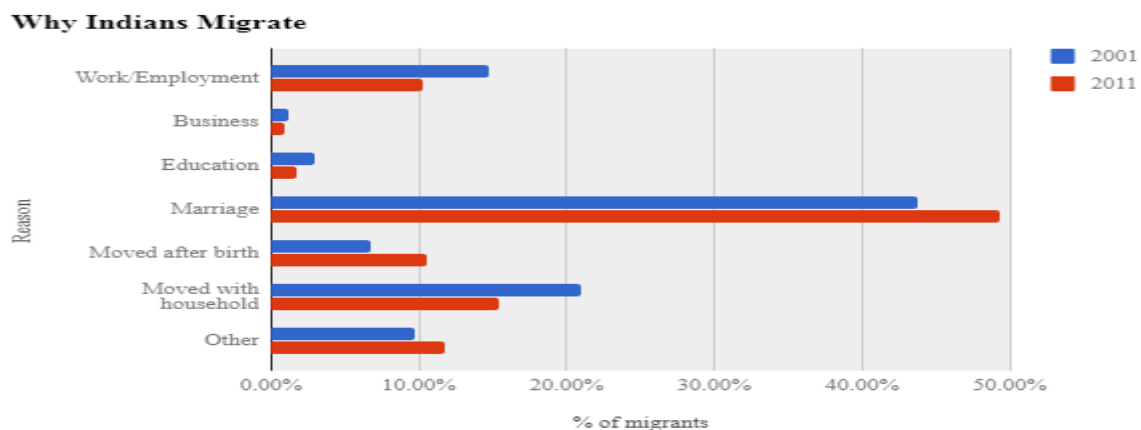
Rural Urban status of place of last residence	Total			Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total	140,962,280	312,679,675	453,641,955	79,910,254	228,526,439	308,436,693	44,759,786	58,399,393	103,159,179
Rural	57,591,406	213,484,039	271,075,445	42,247,144	183,578,346	225,825,490	8,808,768	15,032,407	23,841,175
Urban	83,370,874	99,195,636	182,566,510	37,663,110	44,948,093	82,611,203	35,951,018	43,366,986	79,318,004

Source : Census of India 2011

Migration and movements of human population have always been an integral element in economic development and societal transformation in the history of mankind which can't be stopped. It is reasonable to assume that among various types of male migration flows, the migration from an urban area to another urban area consists of chiefly the semi-skilled or skilled and professional, whereas rural-urban migrants would largely be unskilled or semi-skilled people moving for job in urban / industrial sector, while in the case of the rural-rural migrants should largely be those who are unskilled agricultural labourers. In case of female the increase in the migration rate was due to marriage, recent data show that many of them added to the workforce, joining the pool of migrant workers. There are of course inaccuracies in demarcating such categories of migrants just on the basis of place of last residence and birth.

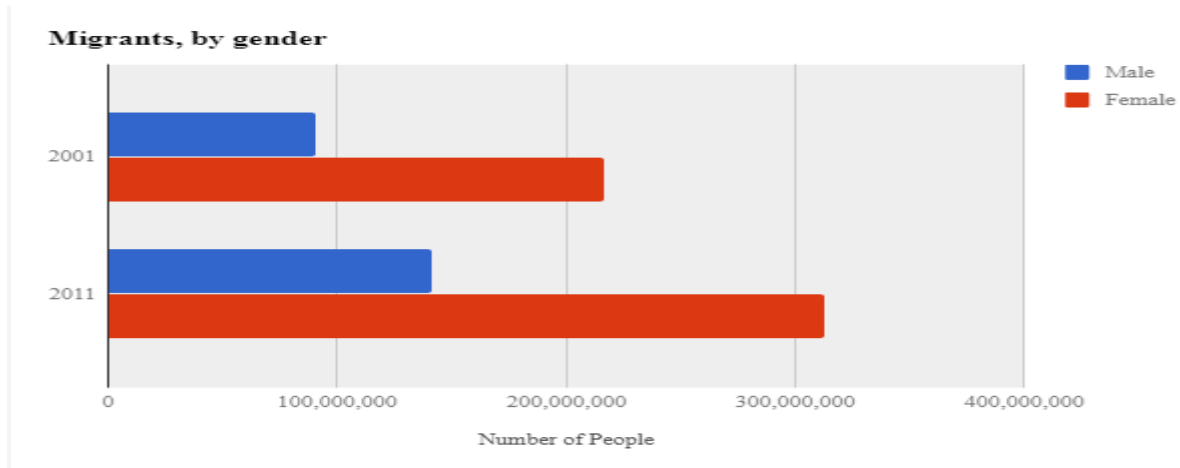


According to secondary data provided by census shows that the migrants (64%) in 2011, up from 54% in 2001, 10 years ago.

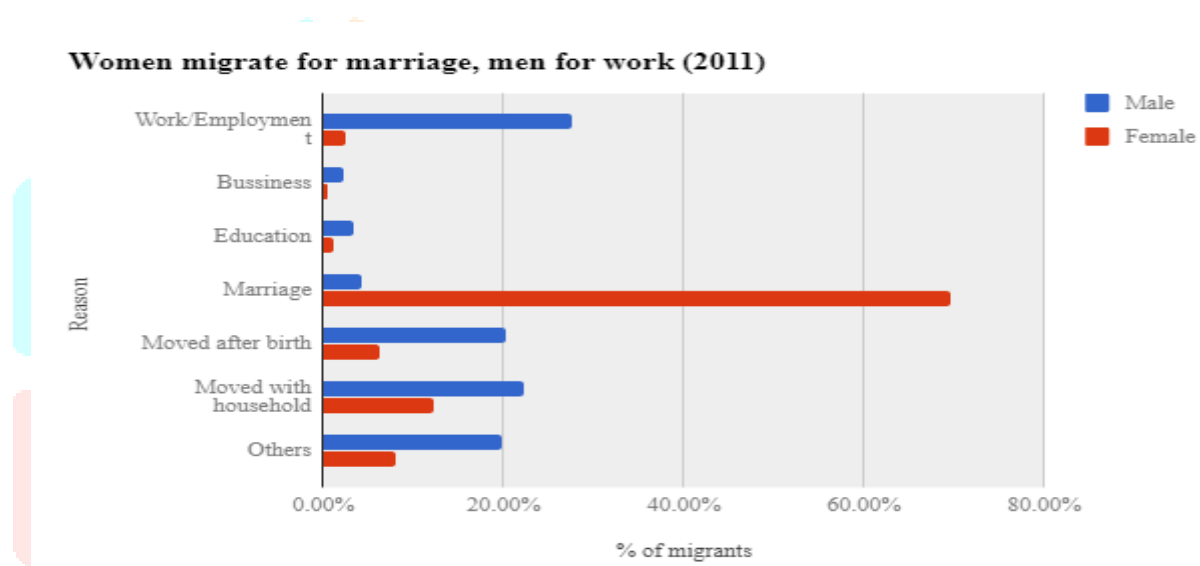


Data shows a large section of the population migrates due to marriage in last two decades as before. 2011 had showed a greater percentage of migration than 2001 due to marriage. One more interesting thing to be noted is that while population is growing at a higher rate, migration

due to “work/employment”, “business” and “education” had decreased in the year 2011 from 2001. This could be due to more opportunities available both in rural and urban areas than before, which restricts movement of people for employment and business.



When a person is enumerated in census at a different place than his / her place of birth, she / he is considered a migrant. This may be due to marriage, which is the most prominent reason for migration. 65.9% women in 1981-1991 and 64.9% in 1991-2001 migrated due to the same reason.



Around 70% of total migrants are females in India. Between 2001-2011 marriage was the dominant reason for migration among women, as was the case in previous two decades. Although migration among women are also increasing due to employment but which is still quite low than men counterparts. Whereas “work/employment” were the main reason mentioned by the male migrant. A significant thing to be noted is that almost 20% of male migrate at a very low age for work.

Table 2: Reasons for migrants by last residence (All Duration of Residence) India 2011

Reason for migrations (All duration of Residence)	Number of Migrants			Percentage to Migrants		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Total migrants	453,641,955	140,962,280	312,679,675	100.0	100.0	100.0
Work / Employment	46,383,766	38,999,861	7,383,905	10.22	27.66	2.36
Business	4,345,018	3,219,565	1,125,453	0.95	2.28	0.35
Education	8,009,653	4,776,882	3,232,771	1.76	3.38	1.03
Marriage	223,882,710	6,017,923	217,864,787	49.35	4.26	69.67
Moved after birth	47,959,194	28,523,392	19,435,802	10.57	20.23	6.21
Moved with households	69,802,369	31,483,085	38,319,284	15.38	22.33	12.25
Other	53,259,245	27,941,572	25,317,673	11.74	19.82	8.09

Source: Developed with the help of Census of India 2011

Information related to migration found from census 2011 shows that male migrates largely due to work/employment around 27.66%, the above information also reveals that a large section of male moved after birth around 20.23%, which we could assume them as unskilled. While female migration is very high due to marriage which is around 66.67%. Other reasons for migration are very limited in case of females like work/employment, business and education shows only 2.36%, 0.35%, and 1.03% respectively.

V. ECONOMIC FACTORS OF MIGRATION:

Factors that causes rural-urban migration such as urban job opportunities; rural land tenure and inheritance patterns etc. Depending on the country like India which is agricultural based, a high level of inequality and an inequitable distribution of assets among the farmers as in the cases of small land less farmers, who account for the majority of agricultural labourers, there is a heavy dependence on the rural labour markets for a huge portion of their incomes. Functions of rural labour market and the wages being offered, have an important impact on the state of poverty. Farming in rural areas offers only seasonal employment, and a low price of their produce not providing sufficient income to sustain the family households for an entire year. Rural residents, when presented with options of earning a living other than from farming, and which may not be financially more rewarding than farming, they are very less-likely to accept the change. A policy that does not provide rural residents with viable economic alternatives will likely lead to migrate. Income differential would lead people to migrate for greater income which helps in better standard of living. Rural inhabitants see and hear success stories about people that leave their community and move to cities, which also act as incentives for out-migration.

VI. SOCIAL FACTORS OF MIGRATION:

Migration has a very important socio economic implication. Income inequality could be reduced as cash flow in rural economy by the migrated people from their native place and this could also enhance their family income and increase the purchasing power of the family members of the migrants. Migration also brings women empowerment, due to their long absence from the household; women become the major decision maker in their family.

Level of education is one of the important criteria for economic development. The latest census data 2011 shows that 68% of the total rural population is educated as compared to 84% of the urban population. Higher dropout rate is also an issue in both urban as well as rural areas. The reason for this higher dropout rate can be explain in terms of -

- a) Lack of available infrastructure in each and every villages of the district,
- b) Migration of children for work.
- c) Improvement in family Income.

Healthcare facilities had improved in India, but mostly it remains urban centric. The recent Annual Health Survey reports, highlights that in some of the indicators like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Crude Death Rate (CDR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) are significantly higher in rural areas than urban areas. People decide to migrate, because of lack of healthcare facilities in the rural sector they can avail better healthcare facilities in the urban sector.

VII. CONCLUSIONS:

Migrants continually face difficulties in becoming a full part of the economic, cultural, social and political lives of society. Regulations and administrative procedures exclude migrants from access to legal rights, public services and social protection programmes accorded to residents, on account of which they are often treated as second-class citizens. Root cause of migration is to compensate the income loss in the rural sector. In order to restrict rural – urban migration, one important criteria would be to engage them in non – farm activities, so that they can maintain the same standard of living as agricultural source of income decreases.

Internal migrants, especially seasonal and circular migrants, constitute a “floating” population, as they alternate between living at their source and destination locations, and in turn lose access to social protection benefits linked to the place of residence. They face numerous constraints, including: a lack of political representation; inadequate housing and a lack of formal residency rights; low paid, insecure or hazardous work; limited access to state-provided services such as health and education; discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, class or gender; extreme vulnerability of women and children migrants to trafficking and sex exploitation (UNESCO/ UN-HABITAT, 2012).

Opportunities and benefits associated with migration are migration of labour helps to fill up the gaps in demand for and supply of labour and also helps in efficient allocation of skilled and unskilled labour. It provides cheap and disciplined labour. Migration is also an informal process of skill development and enhances knowledge and skills of migrants through exposure and interaction with the outside world, new skills are learnt from co-workers and distributed from the place of distribution.

REFERENCES:

1. Bhagat, R.B. (2010): “India’s Internal Migration” Geography and You, Vol.10, Issue58, pp. 20-23.
2. Bhagat, R.B. (2011): “Emerging Pattern of Urbanization in India”, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 66, No. 34, pp. 10-12
3. Bhattacharya, S. (2003): “The Economic Migration of females in India: A Regional Analysis”, Geographical Review of India, Vol. 65, No. 1, pp. 85-92.
4. Census of India (2011) Migration data, Office of the Registrar General of India, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
5. Datta, P. (1996): “Inter State Migration in India”, Indian Journal of Regional Science, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 55-67.
6. Datta, P. (2001): “Internal Migration in India”, in Ray, B. (ed.) Socio-Economic Development in India, Mohit Publications, New Delhi, pp. 34-44.

7. Deshingkar, P. and Akter, S. (2009): "Migration and Human Development in India", United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports Research Paper
8. Gosal, G.S. (1961): "Internal Migration in India: A Regional Analysis", The Indian Geographical Journal, Vol.36, No.3, pp. 106-21

